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EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. EM598712505US

Attorney Docket No. 72255/06073

**Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231**



NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of

Inventor(s) : Kenneth W. Batcher

For (title) : **HARDWARE-BASED ENCRYPTION/DECRYPTION EMPLOYING
CYCLE STEALING**

1. Type of Application

This new application is for a(n):

- ☒ (X) Original (nonprovisional)
- ☐ () Continuation
- ☐ () Continuation-in-part (CIP)
- ☐ () Divisional
- ☐ () Design
- ☐ () Plant

NOTE: If continuation, CIP or divisional, then complete section 2.

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.10*

(Express Mail label number is mandatory.)

(Express Mail certification is optional.)

I hereby certify that this New Application Transmittal and the documents referred to as attached therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on this date September 28, 2000, in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee," mailing Label Number EM598712505US addressed to the: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Valerie A. Milam

Signature of person mailing paper

WARNING: Certificate of mailing (first class) or facsimile transmission procedures of 37 C.F.R. 1.8 cannot be used to obtain a date of mailing or transmission for this correspondence.

***WARNING:** Each paper or fee filed by "Express Mail" **must** have the number of the "Express Mail" mailing label placed thereon prior to mailing. 37 C.F.R. 1.10(b).

2. Benefit of Prior U.S. Application(s) (35 U.S.C. 119(e), 120, or 121)

NOTE: If the new application being transmitted is a continuation, CIP or divisional, of a parent case, or where the parent case is an International Application which designated the U.S., or the benefit of a prior **provisional** application is claimed, then check the following item and complete section as follows.

☐ The new application being transmitted claims the benefit of prior U.S. application(s).

2.1 Relate Back

WARNING: If an application claims the benefit of the filing date of an earlier filed application under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121 or 365(c), the 20-year term of that application will be based upon the filing date of the earliest U.S. application that the application makes reference to under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121 or 365(c). (35 U.S.C. 154(a)(2) does not take into account, for the determination of the patent term, any application on which priority is claimed under 35 U.S.C. 119, 365(a) or 365(b).) For a CIP application, applicant should review whether any claim in the patent that will issue is supported by an earlier application and, if not, the applicant should consider canceling the reference to the earlier filed application. The term of a patent is not based on a claim-by-claim approach. See Notice of April 14, 1995, 60 Fed Reg. 20,195, at 20,205.

(complete the following, if applicable)

Amend the specification by inserting, before the first line, the following sentence:

A. 35 U.S.C. 120, 121 and 365(c)

- ☐ "This is a
☐ continuation
☐ continuation-in-part
☐ divisional

of copending application(s) serial number filed on ."

☐ International Application_____ filed on_____ and which designated the U.S."

Note: The proper reference to a prior filed PCT application that entered the U.S. national phase is the U.S. serial number and the filing date of the PCT application that designated the U.S. Moreover, (1) Where the application being transmitted adds subject matter to the International Application, then the filing can be as a continuation-in-part or (2) if it is desired to do so for other reasons then the filing can be as a continuation.

☐ "The nonprovisional application designated above, namely application no._____,
filed_____, claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application(s) No(s).:

{list application no(s). and filing date(s)}

B. 35 U.S.C. 119(e) (Provisional Application)

☐ "This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application(s) No(s).:

{list application no(s). and filing date(s)}

2.2 Relate Back—35 U.S.C. 119 Priority Claim for Prior Application

The prior U.S. application(s), including any prior International Application designating the U.S., identified above in item 2.1(A), in turn itself claim(s) foreign priority(ies) as follows:

{list country, application no(s). and filing date(s)}

The certified copy(ies) has (have)

☐ been filed on____, in prior application serial no.____, which was filed on____.

☐ is (are) attached.

2.3 Maintenance of Copendency of Prior Application

NOTE: The PTO finds it useful if a copy of the petition filed in the prior application extending the term for response is filed with the papers constituting the filing of the continuation application. Notice of November 5, 1985 (1060 O.G. 27).

A. ☐ Extension of time in prior application

*(This item **must** be completed and the papers filed in the prior application if the period set in the prior application has run.)*

☐ A petition, fee and response extends the term in the pending **prior** application until Extension of_____.

☐ A **copy** of the petition filed in prior application is attached.

B. ☐ Conditional Petition for Extension of Time in Prior Application

(complete this item, if previous item not applicable)

☐ A conditional petition for extension of time is being filed in the pending **prior** application.

☐ A **copy** of the conditional petition filed in the prior application is attached.

2.4 Further Inventorship Statement Where Benefit of Prior Application(s) Claimed

(complete applicable item A, B and/or C below)

A. ☐ This application discloses and claims only subject matter disclosed in the prior application whose particulars are set out above, and the inventor(s) in this application are

☐ the same.

- ☐ less than those named in the prior application. It is requested that the following inventor(s) identified for the prior application be deleted:

{ type name(s) of inventor(s) to be deleted }

- B. ☐ This application discloses and claims additional disclosure by amendment and a new declaration or oath is being filed. With respect to the prior application, the inventor(s) in this application are

☐ the same.

☐ the following additional inventor(s) have been added:

(type name(s) of inventor(s) to be added)

- C. ☐ The inventorship for all the claims in this application are

☐ the same.

☐ not the same. An explanation, including the ownership of the various claims at the time the last claimed invention was made

☐ is submitted.

☐ will be submitted.

2.5 Abandonment of Prior Application (if applicable)

- ☐ Please abandon the prior application at a time while the prior application is pending, or when the petition for extension of time or to revive In that application is granted, and when this application is granted a filing date, so to make this application copending with said prior application.

NOTE: According to the Notice of May 13, 1983 (103, TMOG 6-7), the filing of a continuation or continuation-in-part application is a proper response with respect to a petition for extension of time or a petition to revive and should include the express abandonment of the prior application conditioned upon the granting of the petition and the granting of a filing date to the continuing application.

2.6 Petition for Suspension of Prosecution for the Time Necessary to File an Amendment

NOTE: Where it is possible that the claims on file will give rise to a first action final for this continuation application and for some reason an amendment cannot be filed promptly (e.g, experimental data is being gathered) it may be desirable to file a petition for suspension of prosecution for the time necessary.

(check the next Item, if applicable)

- ☐ There is provided herewith a Petition To Suspend Prosecution for the Time Necessary to File

An Amendment (New Application Filed Concurrently)

2.7 Small Entity (37 CFR § 1.28(a))

- ☐ Applicant has established small entity status by the previous submission of a statement in prior application serial no.____ on ____.
- ☐ A copy of the statement previously filed is included.

WARNING: See 37 CFR § 1.28(a).

2.8. Notification in Parent Application of this Filing

- ☐ A notification of the filing of this
(check one of the following)
 - ☐ continuation
 - ☐ continuation-in-part
 - ☐ divisional

is being filed in the parent application, from which this application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

2.9 Incorporation by Reference

- ☐ the entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied, is considered to be part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.

3. Papers Enclosed Which are Required for Filing Date Under 37 CFR 1.53(b) (Regular) or 37 CFR 1.153 (Design) Application

- (X) 19 Pages of specification
- (X) 9 Pages of claims
- (X) 1 Pages of Abstract
- (X) 6 Sheets of drawing
 - (X) formal
 - ☐ informal

4. Additional papers enclosed

- ☐ Amendment to claims:

- ☐ **Cancel** in this application claims_____ before calculating the filing fee. (At least one original independent claim must be retained for filing purposes).

- ☐ **Add** the claims shown in the attached amendment. (Claims added have been numbered consecutively following the highest numbered original claims).
- ☐ Preliminary Amendment
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (37 C.F.R. 1.98)
- ☐ Form PTO-1449
- ☐ Citations
- ☐ Declaration of Biological Deposit
- ☐ Special Comments
- ☐ Other

5. Declaration or oath (including power of attorney)

☒ **ENCLOSED.**

☒ Newly executed (original or copy)

☐ Copy from prior application No. 0 / _____ (37 CFR 1.63(d)- continuation/divisional)

☐ **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)** - signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the above-noted prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d) and 1.33(b))

Declaration or Oath executed by: (check **all** applicable boxes)

☒ inventor(s).

☐ legal representative of inventor(s). 37 CFR 1.42 or 1.43

☐ joint inventor or person showing a proprietary interest on behalf of inventor who refused to sign or cannot be reached.

☐ this is the petition required by 37 CFR 1.47 and the statement required by 37 CFR 1.47 is also attached. See item 13 below for fee.

☐ **NOT ENCLOSED.**

☐ Application is made by a person authorized under 37 CFR 1.41(c) on behalf of all the above named inventor(s). The declaration or oath, along with the surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.16(e) can be filed subsequently.

☐ Showing that the filing is authorized. (Not required unless called into question. 37 CFR 1.41(d)).

6. Inventorship Statement

WARNING: If the named inventors are each not the inventors of all the claims an explanation, including the ownership of the various claims at the time the last claimed invention was made, should be submitted.

The inventorship for all the claims in this application are:

☐ The same

or

- ☐ Not the same. An explanation, including the ownership of the various claims at the time the last claimed invention was made,
☐ is submitted
☐ will be submitted.

7. Language

- ☒ English
☐ Non-English
☐ the attached translation is a verified translation. 37 CFR 1.52(d).

8. Assignment

- ☒ An assignment of the invention to Cisco Technology, Inc.

☒ is attached. (A separate "ASSIGNMENT COVER LETTER ACCOMPANYING NEW PATENT APPLICATION" is also attached.)

☐ will follow.

☐ The prior application is assigned of record to __ (copy attached).

9. Certified Copy - Foreign Priority Claim Under 35 U.S.C. 119

Certified copy(ies) of application(s)

{list country, application no(s). and filing date(s)}

from which priority is claimed

- ☐ is (are) attached.
☐ will follow.

NOTE: The foreign application forming the basis for the claim for priority **must** be referred to in the **oath** or **declaration**. 37 CFR 1.55(a) and 1.63.

NOTE: This item is for any foreign priority for which the application being filed directly relates. If any parent U.S. application or International Application form which this application claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 is itself entitled to priority from a prior foreign application then complete item 17 on the ADDED PAGES FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OR PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION(S) CLAIMED.

10. Fee Calculation (37 C.F.R. 1.16)

A. ☒ Regular Application

CLAIMS AS FILED				
	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate	Basic Fee

				\$690.00
Total Claims (37 CFR 1.16(c))	15 - 20 =	0	x \$ 18.00	\$ 0
Independent Claims (37 CFR 1.16(b))	15 - 3 =	12	x \$ 78.00	\$ 936
Multiple dependent claim(s), if any (37 CFR 1.16(d))	0	0	+ \$ 260.00	\$ 0.00

- () Amendment canceling extra claims enclosed.
 () Amendment deleting multiple dependencies enclosed.
 () Fee for extra claims is not being paid at this time.

NOTE: If the fees for extra claims are not paid on filing they must be paid or the claims canceled by amendment, prior to the expiration of the time period set for response by the Patent and Trademark Office in any notice of fee deficiency. 37 CFR 1.16(d).

Filing Fee Calculation \$ 1,626.00

B. () Design Application
 (\$330.00 - 37 CFR 1.16(f))

Filing Fee Calculation \$

11. Small Entity Statement(s)

- () Verified Statement(s) that this is a filing by a small entity under 37 CFR 1.9 and 1.27 is(are) attached.

Filing Fee Calculation (50% of A or B above) \$

NOTE: Any excess of the full fee paid will be refunded if a verified statement and a refund request are filed within **2 months** of the date of timely payment of a full fee. 37 CFR 1.28(a).

12. Request for International-Type Search (37 C.F.R. 1.104(d))

- () Please prepare an international-type search report for this application at the time when national examination on the merits takes place.

13. Fee Payment Being Made At This Time

- () NOT ENCLOSED.
 () No filing fee is to be paid at this time. (This and the surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.16(e))

can be paid subsequently.)

(X) ENCLOSED

(X) Filing fee \$ 1,626.00

(X) Recording assignment

(\$40.00; 37 CFR 1.21(h)(1)) \$ 40.00

() petition fee for filing by other than all the inventors or person on behalf of the inventor where inventor refused to sign or cannot be reached. (\$130.00; 37 CFR 1.47 & 1.17(h))

\$_____

() for processing an application with a specification in a non-English language. (\$130.00 37 CFR 1.52(d) and 1.17(k))

\$_____

() processing and retention fee. (\$130.00; 37 CFR 1.53(d) and 1.21(l))

\$_____

() Fee for international-type search report. (\$40.00; 37 CFR 1.21(e))

\$_____

Total fees enclosed

\$ 1,666.00

14. Method of Payment of Fees

(X) Check in the amount of \$ 1,666.00

() Charge Account No. 50-0902 in the amount of \$ A duplicate of this transmittal is attached.

15. Authorization to Charge Additional Fees

WARNING: If no fees are to be paid on filing the following items should **not** be completed.

WARNING: Accurately count claims, especially multiple dependent claims, to avoid unexpected high charges, if extra claim charges are authorized.

(X) The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the following additional fees by this paper and during the entire pendency of this application to Account No. 50-0902, **identifying our Attorney Docket No. 72255/06073.**

(X) 37 CFR 1.16(a), (f), or (g) (filing fees)

(X) 37 CFR 1.16(b), (c) and (d) (presentation of extra claims)

(X) 37 CFR 1.17 (application processing fees)

() 37 CFR 1.16(e) (surcharge for filing the basic filing fee and/or declaration on a date later than the filing date of the application)

() 37 CFR 1.17(a)(1)-(5) (extension fees pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a))

() 37 CFR 1.18 (issue fee at or before mailing Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.311(b))

16. Instruction As To Overpayment

- () Credit Account No. 50-0902, **identifying our Attorney Docket No.** _____.
(X) Refund

17. Incorporation by reference of added pages

(X) The following pages are incorporated by reference:

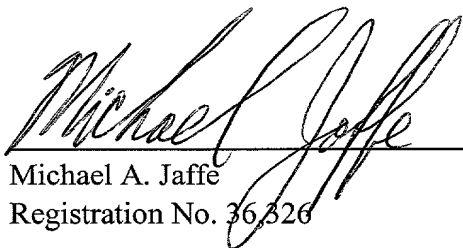
(X) "Assignment Cover Letter Accompanying New Application"; number of pages added 3

() Added Pages For Papers Referred To In Item 4 Above; number of pages added

() Plus added pages deleting names of inventor(s) named in prior application(s) who is/are no longer inventor(s) of the subject matter claimed in this application; number of pages added_____
_____.

(X) no further pages form a part of this Transmittal. The transmittal ends with this page.

Date: September 28, 2000



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HARDWARE-BASED ENCRYPTION/DECRYPTION EMPLOYING CYCLE STEALING

5

Field of Invention

The present invention generally relates to a system for encryption and decryption of data, and more particularly to a hardware-based encryption and decryption system employing cycle stealing.

10

Background of the Invention

In a typical wireless LAN configuration, A common model for network processing consists of a multi-level approach. This is common in many Ethernet LAN protocols such as IEEE 802.3. The model typically includes 3 major levels, namely a) 15 Top :Logical-Link control; b) Middle: Medium Access Control (MAC); and c) Bottom: Physical interface (PHY).

A wireless LAN configuration compliant to IEEE 802.11 is similar to its wired counterpart and has the same three levels. Traditionally, the top Logical-Link control tasks are handled by software running on a HOST processor. The middle level is 20 the responsibility of a MAC processor, which handles all frame traffic between the HOST and the PHY level.

In a typical wireless local area network (WLAN) configuration, a portable or mobile device (e.g., a laptop personal computer) normally includes a HOST processor and a PCI card or PCMCIA card. On this card resides a Medium Access 25 Control (MAC) processing system, a PHY (physical layer) processing device (e.g., a digital signal processor), and a main memory. The MAC processing system includes a MAC processor (e.g., an embedded processor), which is a multi-functional processor engine responsible for a variety of different processing tasks associated with the wireless

communications. The PHY processing device performs such functions as encoding/decoding waveforms. Data transferred between the PHY processing device and the MAC processing system (i.e., the PHY data stream) may be encrypted using an encryption algorithm, such as RC4. Consequently, encrypted data received by the MAC
5 processing system from the PHY processing device is initially stored to the main memory as encrypted data. At a later time, the MAC processor reads the stored encrypted data from main memory and decrypts the data. The decrypted data is then written to the main memory for subsequent processing by the HOST processor.

Similarly, in the case of a data transmission from the MAC processor to
10 the PHY data processing device, the data originates from the HOST processor that writes the data as plaintext to the main memory. The MAC processor will at a later time read the data from the main memory and encrypt it, using the same RC4 algorithm. Then the encrypted data is transmitted to the PHY processing device.

Encryption algorithm RC4 (developed by RSA Data Security, Inc.) is used
15 to encrypt data in accordance with Wired Equivalent Privacy for the IEEE wireless communications standard 802.11. RC4 is a variable key-size stream cipher with byte-oriented operations. The algorithm is based on the use of a random permutation. Analysis shows that the period of the cipher is overwhelmingly likely to be greater than 10^{100} . Eight to sixteen machine operations are required per output byte, and the cipher
20 can be expected to run very quickly in software. RC4 is commonly used for file encryption and for secure communications, as in the encryption of traffic to and from secure web sites using the secured socket layer (SSL) protocol.

In the prior art, both software and hardware approaches have been used to implement the private key RC4 algorithm. In the case where all operations are performed
25 in software, a simple C program can be used, such as those illustrated herein. The RC4 algorithm can be divided into three basic phases: phase 1 for lookup and loading of a private key; phase 2 having two parts, namely, phase 2a for filling an S-box table linearly

and phase 2b for initializing the S-box table with the private key; and phase 3 for the encrypting/decrypting operation (including determination of an X byte and an XOR operation).

It should be understood that Phase 2 of the algorithm includes the two steps of: (phase 2a) filling an S-box table (256 x 8) linearly: $S_0=0, S_1=1, \dots, S_{255}=255$; and then (phase 2b) initializing the S-box table by scrambling the table with the private key, repeating the key as necessary to address all 256 locations in the array. For example, if a 16 byte key is used, the sequence would be: $KEY_0, KEY_1, \dots, KEY_{15}, KEY_0, KEY_1, \dots, KEY_{15}$, repeating this sequence a total of 16 times to complete the scrambling. It should be appreciated that the term "key" refers to a plurality of "key values." In accordance with a preferred embodiment, each key value is a byte, and a key is comprised of 16 key values (i.e., 16 bytes). 16 bytes are required for 128-bit encryption. The key is a private key known only to the transmitter and receiver(s) of the encrypted data.

As indicated above, in Phase 2b of the RC4 algorithm the S-box table is initialized with the private key. In this regard, index j is set to zero, then:

For $i = 0$ to 255:
 $j = (j + S_i + KEY_i) \bmod 256$
swap S_i and S_j

In the third phase (phase 3), two counters, i and j , are initialized to zero to index through the 256x8 S-box in a pseudorandom fashion. Thereafter, random bytes X are generated as follows:

$i = (i+1) \bmod 256$
 $j = (j+S_i) \bmod 256$
Swap S_i and S_j
 $t = (S_i + S_j) \bmod 256$
 $X = S_t$

The foregoing code sequence is performed for every byte to be encrypted/decrypted. Being a symmetric cryptosystem, the same algorithm is used to decrypt or encrypt data depending on how the XOR data is used. In this regard, the byte X is XORed with plaintext to produce ciphertext or XORed with ciphertext to produce plaintext.

5 Although the software implementation of the foregoing encryption algorithm appears simple in high level code, the software approach is slow. The software approach is too slow to meet the tight turn around time requirements of IEEE 802.11.

 In view of the deficiencies of the software implementation, hardware modifications to the MAC processor have been used to accelerate operation of the
10 algorithm. Referring now to Fig. 2, there is shown a MAC processor 10 according to the prior art. MAC processor 10 is generally comprised of a CPU 20, a key storage 30, data path hardware engine 40, microcode controller 50, microcode RAM 70, and S-Box RAM 100.

 CPU 20 is the main processing device of MAC processor 10, and provides
15 signals for controlling operation of key storage 30 and microcode controller 50. Keys are commonly stored in "off-chip" RAM since they are large (often 128 bits or more), and there are many keys that might be used to decrypt and encrypt data depending on the source and destination of the packet address. Therefore, in the prior art a small on-chip key storage 30 is used to hold the current key bytes being used. Key storage 30 is loaded
20 by using register decodes under the direction of software. Therefore, once the proper key is found, software can load the key and start phase 2 of the encryption algorithm discussed above. Data path hardware engine 40 provides an 8-bit wide data path for performing data manipulation for the RC4 algorithm. Data path hardware engine 40 includes elements such as registers, adders, multiplexers, etc., used to read key storage 30
25 and R/W S-box table RAM 100. Microcode controller 50 is used to control the data path to execute the operations needed to execute the RC4 algorithm. S-box table RAM 100 is an "on-chip" RAM (i.e., RAM located on the MAC processor chip) which stores the S-

box table. The use of an "on-chip" RAM allows for faster initialization and XOR byte generation than obtained with off-chip memory access.

The present invention provides enhancements to the hardware arrangement in order to further improve the speed of the encryption/decryption operations.

5

Summary of the Invention

According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a method for accelerating the generation of control signals in a microcode controller system including a microcode controller, a microcode memory, an address latch and a code word latch, the method comprising: opening the address latch during the second half of a clock cycle to store therein an address decoded by the microcode controller, while simultaneously closing the code word latch during the second half of a clock cycle; presenting the address stored in the address latch to the microcode memory to read out a code word therefrom; opening the code word latch during the first half of a clock cycle to store the code word read out from the microcode memory to the code word latch, while simultaneously closing the address latch during the first half of a clock cycle; and presenting the code word stored in the code word latch to the microcode controller for generation of output control signals and decoding at least one address.

According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a microcode controller system comprising: control means for generating control signals and decoding address data; means for latching address data decoded by the control means, said means for latching address data opening during the second half of a clock cycle to store therein said decoded address data; means for latching code word data, said means for latching code word data closing during the second half of a clock cycle, simultaneous with the opening of the means for latching address data; and means for storing code word data, wherein code word data is read out of the means for storing code word data in response to presentation thereto of the address data stored in the address latch, wherein

said means for latching code word data opens during the first half of a clock cycle to store the code word data read out from the means for storing code word data, and said means for latching address data simultaneously closes during the first half of a clock cycle, said control means generating control signals and decoding at least one address, using the
5 code word data stored in the means for latching code word data.

According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a microcode controller system comprising: a microcode controller for generating control signals and decoding address data; an address latch for storing address data decoded by the microcode controller, said address latch opening during the second half of a clock
10 cycle to store said decoded address data therein; a code word latch for storing code word data, said code word latch closing during the second half of a clock cycle, simultaneous with the opening of the address latch; and a microcode memory, wherein code word data is read out of the microcode memory in response to presentation thereto of the address data stored in the address latch, wherein said code word latch opens during the first half
15 of a clock cycle to store the code word data read out from the microcode memory, and said address latch simultaneously closes during the first half of a clock cycle, said microcode controller generating control signals and decoding at least one address, using the code word data stored in the code word latch.

According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a
20 method A method for accelerating the generation of control signals in a microcode controller system including a microcode controller, a microcode memory, an address latch and a code word latch, the method comprising: opening the address latch during the second half of a clock cycle to store therein an address decoded by the microcode controller, and closing the address latch during the first half of a clock cycle; presenting
25 the address stored in the address latch to the microcode memory to read out a code word therefrom; presenting the code word read out from the microcode memory to the

microcode controller, said microcode controller generating output control signals and decoding at least one address from said presented code word.

According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a microcode controller system comprising: control means for generating control signals and
5 decoding address data; means for latching address data decoded by the control means, said means for latching address data opening during the second half of a clock cycle to store therein said decoded address data, and closing during the first half of a clock cycle; and means for storing code word data, wherein code word data is read out of the means
10 for storing code word data in response to presentation thereto of the address data stored in the means for latching address data, wherein said code word data read out from the means for storing code word data is presented to said control means for generating control signals and decoding address data.

According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a microcode controller system comprising: a microcode controller for generating control
15 signals and decoding address data; an address latch for latching address data decoded by the microcode controller, said address latch opening during the second half of a clock cycle to store therein said decoded address data, and closing during the first half of a clock cycle; a code word memory for storing code word data, wherein code word data is read out of the code word memory in response to presentation thereto of the address data
20 stored in the address latch, wherein said code word data read out from the code word memory is presented to said microcode controller to generate control signals and decode address data.

According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a method for accelerating the generation of control signals in a microcode controller system
25 including a microcode controller, a microcode memory, an address latch and a code word latch, the method comprising: presenting an address decoded by the microcode controller to the microcode memory to read out a code word therefrom; opening the code word latch

during the first half of a clock cycle to store the code word read out from the microcode memory to the code word latch, and closing the code word latch during the second half of the clock cycle; and presenting the code word stored in the code word latch to the microcode controller for generation of output control signals and decoding at least one
5 address.

According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a microcode controller system comprising: control means for generating control signals and decoding address data; means for latching code word data, said means for latching code word data closing during the second half of a clock cycle; and means for storing code
10 word data, wherein code word data is read out of the means for storing code word data in response to presentation thereto of the address data decoded by the control means, means for storing code word data, wherein code word data is read out of the means for storing code word data in response to presentation thereto of the address data decoded by the control means, wherein said means for latching code word data opens during the first half
15 of a clock cycle to store the code word data read out from the means for storing code word data, said control means generating control signals and decoding at least one address, using the code word data stored in the means for latching code word data.

According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a microcode controller system comprising: a microcode controller for generating control
20 signals and decoding address data; a latch for storing code word data, said latch closing during the second half of a clock cycle; and a memory for storing code word data, wherein code word data is read out of the memory in response to presentation thereto of the address data decoded by the microcode controller, wherein said latch opens during the first half of a clock cycle to store the code word data read out from the memory, said
25 microcode controller generating control signals and decoding at least one address, using the code word data stored in the latch.

According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a method for accelerating the generation of control signals in a microcode controller system including a microcode controller and a dual read port microcode memory having (1) a first read port comprised of: (a) a first read address port and (b) a first read data port, and
5 (2) a second read port comprised of: (a) a second read address port and (b) a second read data port, the method comprising: presenting an address decoded by the microcode controller to the first read address port, to read out a code word from the first read data port; generating microcode control signals at the microcode controller using the code word from the first data output port; generating a next address at the microcode controller
10 using the code word from the first data output port; presenting the next address to the second read address port to read out a next code word from the second read data port; and alternating use of the first and second read ports for every other clock cycle.

According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a system for accelerating the generation of control signals in a microcode controller system
15 including: a microcode controller for decoding addresses and generating microcode control signals; and a dual read port microcode memory having: (1) a first read port comprised of: (a) a first read address port and (b) a first read data port, and (2) a second read port comprised of: (a) a second read address port and (b) a second read data port, wherein an address decoded by the microcode controller is presented to the first read
20 address port, to read out a code word from the first read data port, said microcode controller using the code word from the first data output port to generate microcode control signals and generate a next address, wherein said next address is presented to the second read address port to read out a next code word from the second read data port, said first and second read ports are alternately read from every other clock cycle.

25 According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a system for accelerating the generation of control signals in a microcode controller system including: a microcode controller for decoding addresses and generating microcode

control signals; and a dual read port microcode memory having: (1) a first read port comprised of: (a) a first read address port and (b) a first read data port, and (2) a second read port comprised of: (a) a second read address port and (b) a second read data port, wherein an address decoded by the microcode controller is presented to the first read address port, to read out a code word from the first read data port, said microcode controller using the code word from the first data output port to generate microcode control signals and generate a next address, wherein said next address is presented to the second read address port to read out a next code word from the second read data port, said first and second read ports are alternately read from every other clock cycle.

According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a method for accelerating the generation of control signals in a pipelined microcode controller system including a microcode controller, a microcode memory, a plurality of address latches and a plurality of code word latches, and having a plurality of clock cycle phases, the method comprising: (a) opening a code word latch during the Nth phase of the clock cycle to store code word data therein read out from the microcode memory; (b) closing said code word latch during the N+1 phase of the clock cycle, simultaneous with the opening of an address latch, wherein said address latch opens during the N+1th phase of a clock cycle to store address data read out from the microcode memory for the subsequent phase of the clock cycle after the N+1th phase of the clock cycle; and repeating steps (a) and (b) with alternating phases of the clock cycle for respective opening and closing of the address latch and code word latch for a plurality of phases of the clock cycle.

According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a system A system for accelerating the generation of control signals in a pipelined microcode controller system having a plurality of clock cycle phases including: a microcode controller for decoding addresses and generating microcode control signals; a microcode memory for storing code word data; a plurality of address latches associated

with the microcode controller and microcode memory; and a plurality of code word latches associated with the microcode controller and microcode memory, wherein (a) a code word latch is opened during the Nth phase of the clock cycle to store code word data therein read out from the microcode memory, (b) the code word latch is closed during the N+1 phase of the clock cycle, simultaneous with the opening of an address latch, wherein said address latch opens during the N+1th phase of a clock cycle to store address data from the microcode controller for the subsequent phase of the clock cycle after the N+1th phase of the clock cycle, wherein steps (a) and (b) are repeated with alternating phases of the clock cycle for respective opening and closing of the address latch and code word latch for a plurality of phases of the clock cycle.

According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a system for accelerating the generation of control signals in a pipelined microcode controller system having a plurality of clock cycle phases including: processing means for decoding addresses and generating microcode control signals; means for storing code word data; a plurality of means for latching address data; and a plurality of means for latching code word data, wherein (a) a means for latching code word data is opened during the Nth phase of the clock cycle to store code word data therein read out from the microcode memory, (b) the means for latching code word data is closed during the N+1 phase of the clock cycle, simultaneous with the opening of a means for latching address data, wherein said means for latching address data opens during the N+1th phase of a clock cycle to store address data from the processing means for the subsequent phase of the clock cycle after the N+1th phase of the clock cycle, wherein steps (a) and (b) are repeated with alternating phases of the clock cycle for respective opening and closing of the means for latching address data and means for latching code word data, for a plurality of phases of the clock cycle.

An advantage of the present invention is the provision of a system for microcode controller system that provides faster and more efficient execution of an encryption/decryption algorithm.

Another advantage of the present invention is the provision of a microcode
5 controller system provides greater ease of operation.

Still other advantages of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art upon a reading and understanding of the following detailed description, accompanying drawings and appended claims.

10 **Brief Description of the Drawings**

The invention may take physical form in certain parts and arrangements of parts, a preferred embodiment and method of which will be described in detail in this specification and illustrated in the accompanying drawings which form a part hereof, and wherein:

15 Fig. 1 illustrates a typical PHY data stream;

Fig. 2 is a block diagram of a typical prior art hardware configuration for performing encryption/decryption;

Fig. 3 is a block diagram of a hardware configuration for performing encryption/decryption, according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention; and

20 Fig. 4 illustrates timing diagrams for microcode controller fetch and execute phases according to both the prior art, and a preferred embodiment of the present invention, wherein level sensitive latches are employed; and

Fig. 5 illustrates a timing diagram for an alternative embodiment of the present invention, wherein multiple stages of level sensitive latches are employed.

25 Fig. 6 shows timelines illustrating improvements in data processing speed over the prior art.

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment

It should be understood that while a preferred embodiment of the present invention is described in connection with the RC4 encryption/decryption algorithm, the present invention is also suitably applicable to other encryption/decryption algorithms to provide improved processing speed and efficiency. Furthermore, while the present invention has been described in the context of a system for encrypting and decrypting data, the present invention is also contemplated for use with applications outside of encryption/decryption, as a means for accelerating data processing operations.

Referring now to the drawings wherein the showings are for the purposes of illustrating a preferred embodiment of the invention only and not for purposes of limiting same, Fig. 1 illustrates a typical PHY data stream. The PHY data stream include data frames having two main components, namely, a header portion, and a data portion. The header portion includes control information such as source, destination address; data rate, etc. The MAC processor processes the header information so it knows how to deal with the data portion. Furthermore, some information in the header portion may direct the MAC processor to perform actions such as generating a response message to the sender or steering the data to another station. The header portion is not typically encrypted. The data portion typically includes data that is encrypted, and is intended for processing by the HOST processor. This data may be used by the HOST processor to communicate with other HOST processors across a network using some upper level protocol, such as sending an FTP from one station to another station. In the case of a system complying with IEEE standard 802.11, the HOST processor does not use the header information.

The data processing steps for decryption using prior art systems will now be described in detail with reference to Figs. 1 and 2. As can be seen in Fig. 1, each frame of data is comprised of a header portion and a data portion. A short time gap (i.e., interframe spacing) is provided between each frame. After the header portion of the first

data frame (frame #1) has been loaded, phase 1 of the RC4 algorithm commences. The address portion of the header is used to begin the key lookup. After the proper key is found, it is loaded into the key register. While this is happening, encrypted data continues to arrive from the PHY processing device. After the key (i.e., the plurality of key values) is completely loaded into the key register, phase 2 of the RC4 algorithm commences. Phase 2 continues until a period of time after the header for the next data frame (frame #2) has begun to be received. However, most of the time for phase 2 occurs during the interframe spacing. Phase 3 (decrypting/encrypting operation for frame #1) will commence while the header for the next data frame (frame #2) is still being received by the MAC processor. However, as shown, due to the tight turn around time; decryption of all data of frame #1 is not completed before the data portion of frame #2 is received. This is due to the long period of time needed to complete phases 1 and 2 using the prior art system as shown in Fig. 2. It should be understood that a different key may be used for each received data frame since the MAC processor may be receiving data from different clients, each having a unique private key.

As indicated above, the IEEE wireless communication standard 802.11 requires the use of RC4 to encrypt and decrypt frames that are delivered across a wireless LAN. This creates the potential for performance problems since the inter frame spacing timing (SIFs) between data packets is tight as shown in Fig. 1. The decryption of a frame must complete before a subsequent frame arrives so that the next frame can be decrypted. As described above, the RC4 algorithm uses a multiple step process to prepare an S-box table. This process includes finding and loading a private key, and then scrambling the S-box table to initialize it with the private key. The key loading process cannot begin until the header portion of a frame has been processed. Consequently, there is little time to decrypt the data portion of the frame before the next frame arrives. The problem is more pronounced on short frames since there is little time to "amortize the

cost" of loading the key and initializing the S-box table with the key, over the packet size.

Referring now to Fig. 3, there is shown a modified MAC processor 10', according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention. The present invention
5 contributes to faster processing of phase 2 (S-box table initialization) and phase 3 (decrypt/encrypt) of the RC4 algorithm.

In this regard, the present invention accelerates operations of microcode controller 50 by using an address latch 60 and an instruction code word latch 80 to create the effect of a dual ported microcode storage, as will be described in further detail below.
10 This allows optimization of the RC4 algorithm in that the fetch of the next microcode word and current microcode execute operation can proceed on the same clock cycle. These cycle stealing latches also help to improve critical paths, allowing intermediate results to race ahead and get captured by flip flops where the control signals then go to the data path. Therefore, the present invention contributes to significant improvement in
15 the speed of the microcode operations for preparing the S-box tables.

The performance boost provided by the level sensitive latches will now be described with reference to the timing diagram of Fig. 4. Section I shows the timing associated with the prior art, while Section II shows the timing associated with the present invention. This figure shows five (5) clock cycles and a starting signal (START).
20 For Section I, the signals are labeled A, B, C to correspond to the microcontroller arrangement of Fig. 2 (prior art). For Section II, the signals are labeled A, B, C, and D to correspond to the microcontroller arrangement of Fig. 3 (present invention). The "XXX" sequences indicate when the next address and code word fetch buses are not stable due to memory access and decode times. An incrementing sequence is shown where the code
25 address begins at 0 and a corresponding code word fetch occurs (C0). The sequence continues, address 1 and code word fetch occurs (C1), etc. In accordance with the prior art, a flip flop is used to hold the address which gets updated on the rising edge of the

clock pulse. The microcode fetch then occurs using the address flip flop with approximate timing as shown in section I. The current code word, in turn, is used to decode and calculate the next address, which gets updated at the next rising edge (e.g. C0 generates address 1). As can be observed, the next address just makes the setup time,
5 thus very little slack exists in setup timing using the prior art. Consequently, increasing the clock frequency is not possible.

In the case of the present invention (Fig. 3), the address flip flop is replaced with a level sensitive address latch 60. Address latch 60 is closed the 1st half of the clock cycle and then open the 2nd half of the clock cycle. Code word latch 80 is also
10 provided to the code word fetch path, which is closed the 2nd half of the clock cycle and then open the 1st half of the clock cycle. Code word latch 80 is used to present the code word into microcode controller 50, and address latch 60 is used to present the address to microcode RAM 70, as shown in Fig. 3. During the first phase (i.e., 1st half of the clock cycle) code word latch 80 is open and the next instruction flows through. At mid-cycle
15 address latch 60 opens and code word latch 80 closes, thus holding the current instruction safely as the address changes to microcode RAM 70. Address latch 60 opens during the back half of the clock cycle to allow the next address to be calculated ahead of time (forwarding ahead), so that it is ready by the end of the clock cycle.

For example, before point T1 in the Fig. 4, the next address is calculated
20 from the decode of code fetch contents (instruction C2 decoded to generate next address 3). Address latch 60 is frozen prior to point T1, and consequently the code fetch is held stable. After point T1 address latch 60 opens and updates to the next address (address 3). Normally, this would cause the code fetch to update and transition before point T2. However, microcode controller 50 uses the latched version of the code word fetch, hence
25 code word latch 80 closes at point T1 and microcode controller 50 sees a stable code word (C2) at the point T2 where it is correctly executed. It should be appreciated that the

code words may not proceed in a linear fashion as shown, such as in the case of loops and branches.

The end result is that the code word is ready earlier in accordance with the present invention. Accordingly, the next address calculation is made earlier in time, since
5 a cycle stealing occurs from the address latch to the code word latch. Therefore, it is possible to speedup the clock frequency X2 using the present invention, as compared to using the prior art, since the setup/hold relationship to the latches are improved.

It should be appreciated that alternative embodiments of the present invention include the use of only a latch to cycle steal address data, the use of only a
10 latch to cycle steal code word data, as well as the use of a pair of latches to cycle steal both address data and code word data, as described above.

In an alternative embodiment, the microcode storage is implemented with a multiple read port memory (rather than latches) to create a similar effect as in the preferred embodiment. A typical dual read port memory includes (1) a first read port
15 comprised of: (a) a first read address port and (b) a first read data port, and (2) a second read port comprised of (a) a second read address port and (b) a second read data port. In this alternative embodiment, a dual read port microcode memory is used for microcode RAM 70. An address decoded by microcode controller 50 is presented to the first read address port, to read out a code word from the first read data port. The code word read
20 out of the first read data port is used to generate the next address which is presented to the second read address port. The code word read out of the first read data port is also used by the microcode controller to generate microcode control signals. The next address is used to obtain the next code word from the second read data port. Processing continues as with the first code word. Use of the dual read ports is alternated, such that the first
25 read address/data ports functions as the second read address/data ports, and the second read address/data ports function as the first read address/data ports, every other clock cycle. It should be further noted that the dual read port microcode memory may be a

synchronous memory (clocked) or asynchronous memory (non-clocked). Moreover, the dual read port microcode memory may be a synchronous burst or non-burst memory.

In yet another alternative embodiment, multiple address latches and multiple code word latches are used in a pipelined system. In this regard, code word data and address data are latched in a pipelined system having a plurality of clocked execution phases. A code word latch for storing code word data is opened during the Nth phase of a clock cycle to store the code word data read out from microcode memory to the code word latch. This code word latch is closed during the N+1th phase of a clock cycle, simultaneous with the opening of the address latch on the same phase. The address latch opens during the N+1th phase of a clock cycle to store the address data from the microcode controller for the subsequent phase of the clock cycle after the N+1th phase of a clock cycle. The foregoing sequence repeats as stated above, with alternating phases for the opening and closing of the address and code word latches for a plurality of phases of the clock cycle. For instance, the code word latch is open on odd phases clock cycles (i.e., 1, 3, 5, etc.) and is closed on even phase clock cycles (i.e., 2, 4, 6, etc.). Likewise, the address latch is open on even phase clock cycles and closed on odd phase clock cycles. A representative timing diagram showing a 4 phase clocking system is shown in Fig. 5.

It should be understood that all the improvements mentioned for decryption of data are likewise realized for encryption of data.

Fig. 6 provides timelines for a decryption operation that illustrate performance improvements contributed by the present invention. Section I is a timeline associated with the prior art, while Section II is a time line associated with the present invention. It should be appreciated that Section II also illustrates the effects provided by use of a dual ported key storage, as disclosed in related application serial no.

_____, filed _____, and assigned to the assignee of the present application. Dual ported key storage allows a key to be loaded into memory

(write port) (phase 1), while simultaneously reading a key (read port) to initialize the S-box table with the keys (phase 2). The timelines of Fig. 6 show the six basic steps that are performed (A - F) during two back-to-back decryption phases. Steps A - F correspond to the tasks noted in the table below:

STEP	TASK
A	Lookup and load key for frame #1. May also start phase 2a of frame #1 at this step. (phase 1/2a).
B	Initialize S-box table for frame #1. May also do phase 2a of frame #1 at this step. (phase 2a/2b).
C	Lookup and load key for frame #2. May also start phase 2a of frame #2 at this step. (phase 1/2a)
D	Perform decryption for frame #1 (phase 3)
E	Initialize S-box table for frame #2. May also do phase 2a of frame #2 at this step. (phase 2a/2b)
F	Lookup and load key for frame #3. May also start phase 2a of frame #3 at this step. (phase 1)

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The three columns in Sections I and II of Fig. 6 respectively show the resource utilization for loading keys (phase 1), initialization of the S-box table (phase 2) and decryption (phase 3). As can be seen, the prior art takes 160μs to finish with the first decryption (frame #1) and start the next decryption (frame #2). The present invention contributes to the completion of the same tasks in 75μs through use of level sensitive latches during microcode fetch and execute (as shown with the star in Fig. 6). In this regard, reference is made to the length of timelines B, E and D in Sections I and II.

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It should be appreciated that in alternative embodiments of the present invention, independent transmission (TX) and reception (RX) engines or a single shared TX/RX engine may be provided. The encryption/decryption engine, being comprised of memories and datapath, may include a common data path with multiple SBOX memories used for TX and RX of forthcoming packets. Another alternative includes the use multiple datapaths and SBOX memories for full parallel operations. In this regard it

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would be possible to perform a full duplex TX encryption and RX decryption at the same time. It should be appreciated that any number of multiple instances of encryption/decryption engines may be provided on a single MAC processor (e.g., four receive engines, two transmit engines for a total of six different SBOX tables and six
5 different key registers).

The present invention has been described with reference to a preferred embodiment. Obviously, modifications and alterations will occur to others upon a reading and understanding of this specification. It is intended that all such modifications and alterations be included insofar as they come within the scope of the appended claims
10 or the equivalents thereof.

Having thus described the invention, it is now claimed:

1. A method for accelerating the generation of control signals in a microcode controller system including a microcode controller, a microcode memory, an address latch and a code word latch, the method comprising:

opening the address latch during the second half of a clock cycle to store therein an address decoded by the microcode controller, while simultaneously closing the code word latch during the second half of a clock cycle;

presenting the address stored in the address latch to the microcode memory to read out a code word therefrom;

opening the code word latch during the first half of a clock cycle to store the code word read out from the microcode memory to the code word latch, while simultaneously closing the address latch during the first half of a clock cycle; and

presenting the code word stored in the code word latch to the microcode controller for generation of output control signals and decoding at least one address.

2. A microcode controller system comprising:

control means for generating control signals and decoding address data;

means for latching address data decoded by the control means, said means for latching address data opening during the second half of a clock cycle to store therein said decoded address data;

means for latching code word data, said means for latching code word data closing during the second half of a clock cycle, simultaneous with the opening of the means for latching address data; and

means for storing code word data, wherein code word data is read out of the means for storing code word data in response to presentation thereto of the address data stored in the address latch,

wherein said means for latching code word data opens during the first half of a clock cycle to store the code word data read out from the means for storing code word data, and said means for latching address data simultaneously closes during the first half of a clock cycle, said control means generating control signals and decoding at least one address, using the code word data stored in the means for latching code word data.

3. A microcode controller system comprising:

a microcode controller for generating control signals and decoding address data;

an address latch for storing address data decoded by the microcode controller, said address latch opening during the second half of a clock cycle to store said decoded address data therein;

a code word latch for storing code word data, said code word latch closing during the second half of a clock cycle, simultaneous with the opening of the address latch; and

a microcode memory, wherein code word data is read out of the microcode memory in response to presentation thereto of the address data stored in the address latch,

wherein said code word latch opens during the first half of a clock cycle to store the code word data read out from the microcode memory, and said address latch simultaneously closes during the first half of a clock cycle, said microcode controller generating control signals and decoding at least one address, using the code word data stored in the code word latch.

4. A method for accelerating the generation of control signals in a microcode controller system including a microcode controller, a microcode memory, an address latch and a code word latch, the method comprising:

opening the address latch during the second half of a clock cycle to store therein an address decoded by the microcode controller, and closing the address latch during the first half of a clock cycle;

presenting the address stored in the address latch to the microcode memory to read out a code word therefrom;

presenting the code word read out from the microcode memory to the microcode controller, said microcode controller generating output control signals and decoding at least one address from said presented code word.

5. A microcode controller system comprising:

control means for generating control signals and decoding address data;

means for latching address data decoded by the control means, said means for latching address data opening during the second half of a clock cycle to store therein said decoded address data, and closing during the first half of a clock cycle; and

means for storing code word data, wherein code word data is read out of the means for storing code word data in response to presentation thereto of the address data stored in the means for latching address data, wherein said code word data read out from the means for storing code word data is presented to said control means for generating control signals and decoding address data.

6. A microcode controller system comprising:

a microcode controller for generating control signals and decoding address data;

an address latch for latching address data decoded by the microcode controller, said address latch opening during the second half of a clock cycle to store therein said decoded address data, and closing during the first half of a clock cycle;

a code word memory for storing code word data, wherein code word data is read out of the code word memory in response to presentation thereto of the address data stored in the address latch, wherein said code word data read out from the code word memory is presented to said microcode controller to generate control signals and decode address data.

7. A method for accelerating the generation of control signals in a microcode controller system including a microcode controller, a microcode memory, an address latch and a code word latch, the method comprising:

presenting an address decoded by the microcode controller to the microcode memory to read out a code word therefrom;

opening the code word latch during the first half of a clock cycle to store the code word read out from the microcode memory to the code word latch, and closing the code word latch during the second half of the clock cycle; and

presenting the code word stored in the code word latch to the microcode controller for generation of output control signals and decoding at least one address.

8. A microcode controller system comprising:

control means for generating control signals and decoding address data;

means for latching code word data, said means for latching code word data closing during the second half of a clock cycle; and

means for storing code word data, wherein code word data is read out of the means for storing code word data in response to presentation thereto of the address data decoded by the control means,

wherein said means for latching code word data opens during the first half of a clock cycle to store the code word data read out from the means for storing code word data, said control means generating control signals and decoding at least one address, using the code word data stored in the means for latching code word data.

9. A microcode controller system comprising:

a microcode controller for generating control signals and decoding address data;

a latch for storing code word data, said latch closing during the second half of a clock cycle; and

a memory for storing code word data, wherein code word data is read out of the memory in response to presentation thereto of the address data decoded by the microcode controller,

wherein said latch opens during the first half of a clock cycle to store the code word data read out from the memory, said microcode controller generating control signals and decoding at least one address, using the code word data stored in the latch.

10. A method for accelerating the generation of control signals in a microcode controller system including a microcode controller and a dual read port microcode memory having (1) a first read port comprised of: (a) a first read address port and (b) a first read data port, and (2) a second read port comprised of: (a) a second read address port and (b) a second read data port, the method comprising:

presenting an address decoded by the microcode controller to the first read address port, to read out a code word from the first read data port;

generating microcode control signals at the microcode controller using the code word from the first data output port;

generating a next address at the microcode controller using the code word from the first data output port;

presenting the next address to the second read address port to read out a next code word from the second read data port; and

alternating use of the first and second read ports for every other clock cycle.

11. A system for accelerating the generation of control signals in a microcode controller system including:

a microcode controller for decoding addresses and generating microcode control signals; and

a dual read port microcode memory having:

(1) a first read port comprised of: (a) a first read address port and (b) a first read data port, and

(2) a second read port comprised of: (a) a second read address port and (b) a second read data port,

wherein an address decoded by the microcode controller is presented to the first read address port, to read out a code word from the first read data port, said microcode controller using the code word from the first data output port to generate microcode control signals and generate a next address, wherein said next address is presented to the second read address port to read out a next code word from the second read data port, said first and second read ports are alternately read from every other clock cycle.

12. A system for accelerating the generation of control signals in a microcode controller system including:

processing means for decoding addresses and generating microcode control signals; and

means for storing code words having a dual read port, said means for storing code words including:

- (1) a first read port comprised of: (a) a first read address port and (b) a first read data port, and
- (2) a second read port comprised of: (a) a second read address port and (b) a second read data port,

wherein an address decoded by the processing means is presented to the first read address port, to read out a code word from the first read data port, said processing means using the code word from the first data output port to generate microcode control signals and generate a next address, wherein said next address is presented to the second read address port to read out a next code word from the second read data port, said first and second read ports are alternately read from every other clock cycle.

13. A method for accelerating the generation of control signals in a pipelined microcode controller system including a microcode controller, a microcode memory, a plurality of address latches and a plurality of code word latches, and having a plurality of clock cycle phases, the method comprising:

- (a) opening a code word latch during the Nth phase of the clock cycle to store code word data therein read out from the microcode memory;
- (b) closing said code word latch during the N+1 phase of the clock cycle, simultaneous with the opening of an address latch, wherein said address latch opens during the N+1th phase of a clock cycle to store address data read out from the microcode memory for the subsequent phase of the clock cycle after the N+1th phase of the clock cycle; and

repeating steps (a) and (b) with alternating phases of the clock cycle for respective opening and closing of the address latch and code word latch for a plurality of phases of the clock cycle.

14. A system for accelerating the generation of control signals in a pipelined microcode controller system having a plurality of clock cycle phases including:

- a microcode controller for decoding addresses and generating microcode control signals;
- a microcode memory for storing code word data;
- a plurality of address latches associated with the microcode controller and microcode memory; and
- a plurality of code word latches associated with the microcode controller and microcode memory,

wherein (a) a code word latch is opened during the Nth phase of the clock cycle to store code word data therein read out from the microcode memory, (b) the code word latch is closed during the N+1 phase of the clock cycle, simultaneous with the opening of an address latch, wherein said address latch opens during the N+1th phase of a clock cycle to store address data from the microcode controller for the subsequent phase of the clock cycle after the N+1th phase of the clock cycle, wherein steps (a) and (b) are repeated with alternating phases of the clock cycle for respective opening and closing of the address latch and code word latch for a plurality of phases of the clock cycle.

15. A system for accelerating the generation of control signals in a pipelined microcode controller system having a plurality of clock cycle phases including:

- processing means for decoding addresses and generating microcode control signals;
- means for storing code word data;

a plurality of means for latching address data; and

a plurality of means for latching code word data,

wherein (a) a means for latching code word data is opened during the Nth phase of the clock cycle to store code word data therein read out from the microcode memory, (b) the means for latching code word data is closed during the N+1 phase of the clock cycle, simultaneous with the opening of a means for latching address data, wherein said means for latching address data opens during the N+1th phase of a clock cycle to store address data from the processing means for the subsequent phase of the clock cycle after the N+1th phase of the clock cycle, wherein steps (a) and (b) are repeated with alternating phases of the clock cycle for respective opening and closing of the means for latching address data and means for latching code word data, for a plurality of phases of the clock cycle.

ABSTRACT

A system for the encryption and decryption of data employing cycle stealing to accelerate data processing operations. The cycle stealing is employed by using level sensitive latches in a microcode controller system for storing addresses and code words. The microcode controller system controls the data path hardware for executing the encryption/decryption operations.

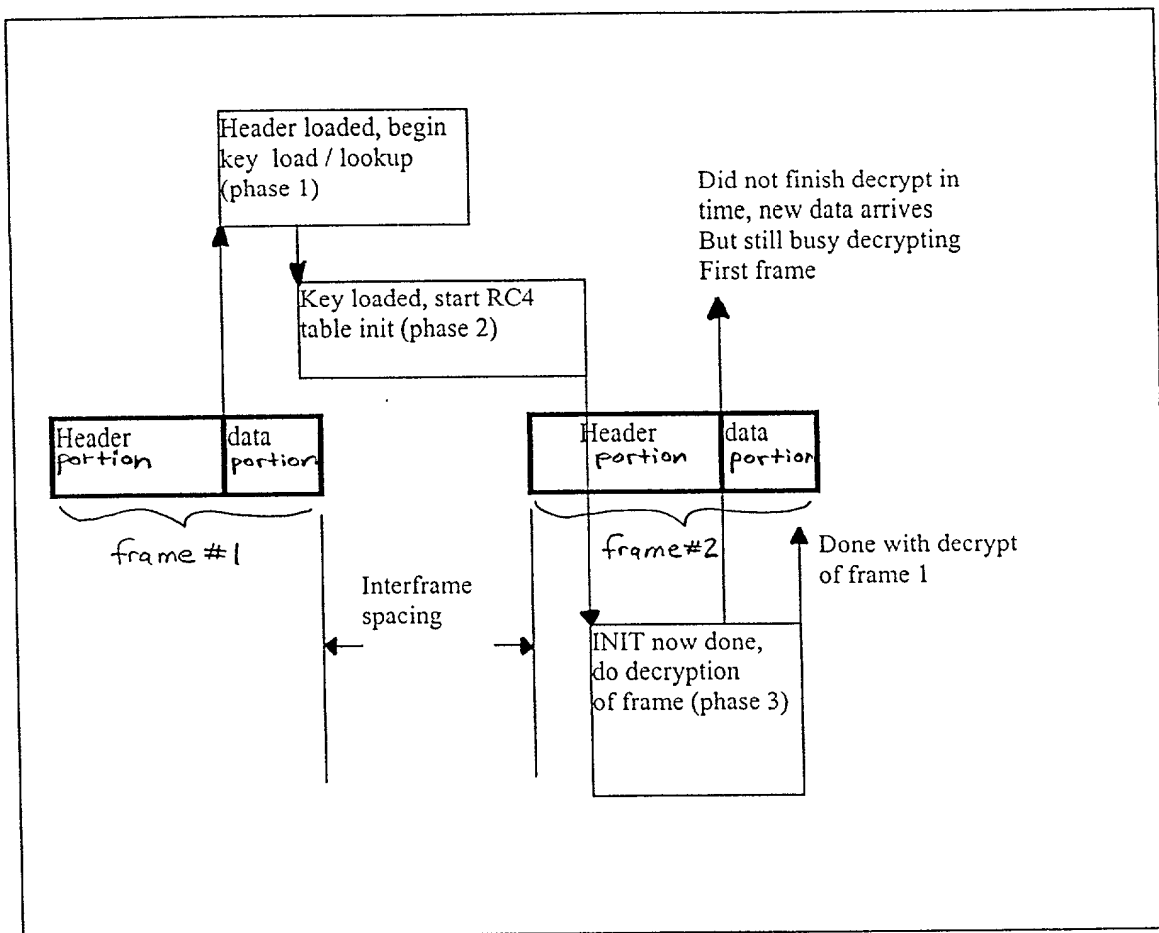


Fig. 1

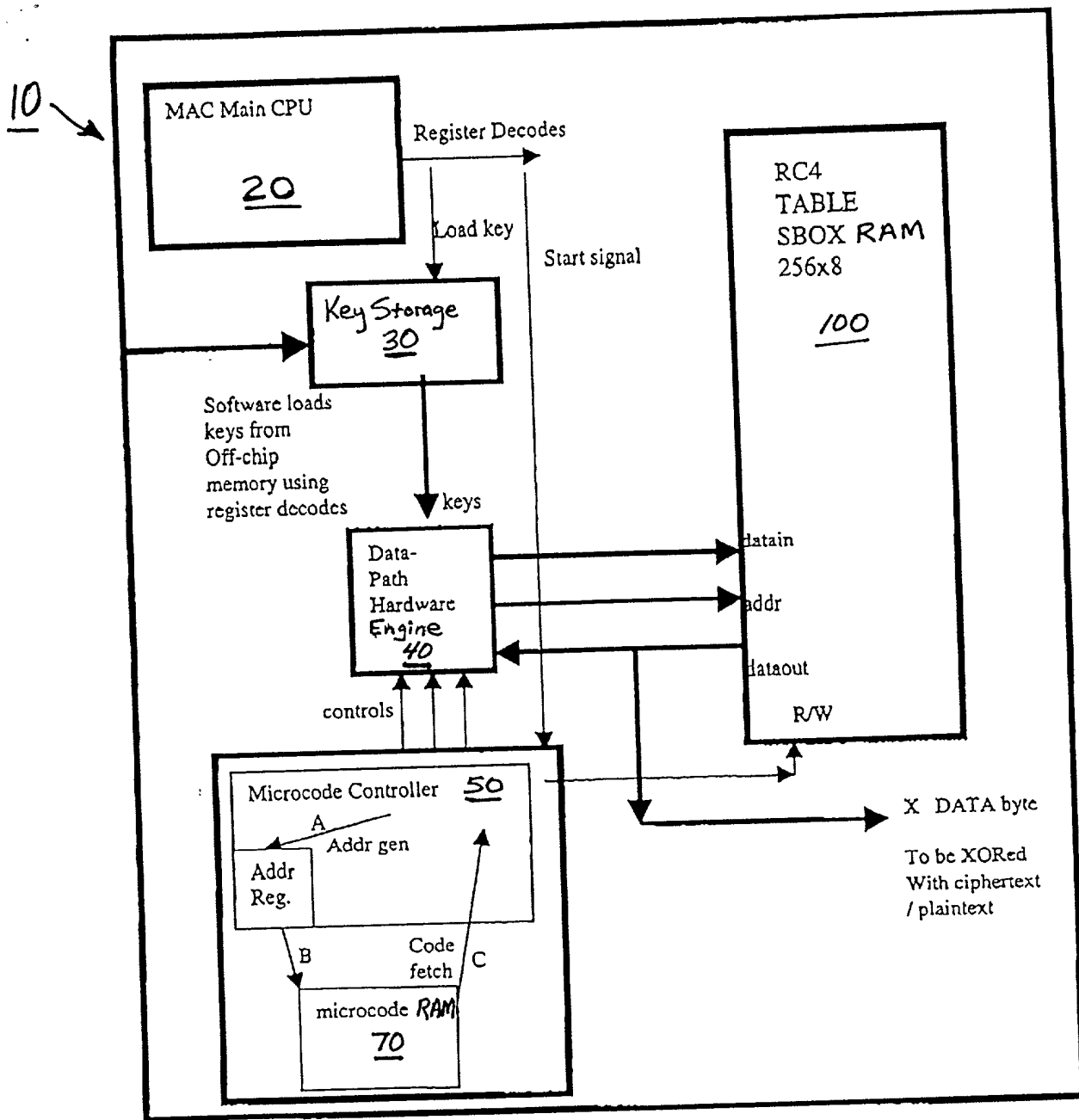


Fig. 2

PRIOR ART

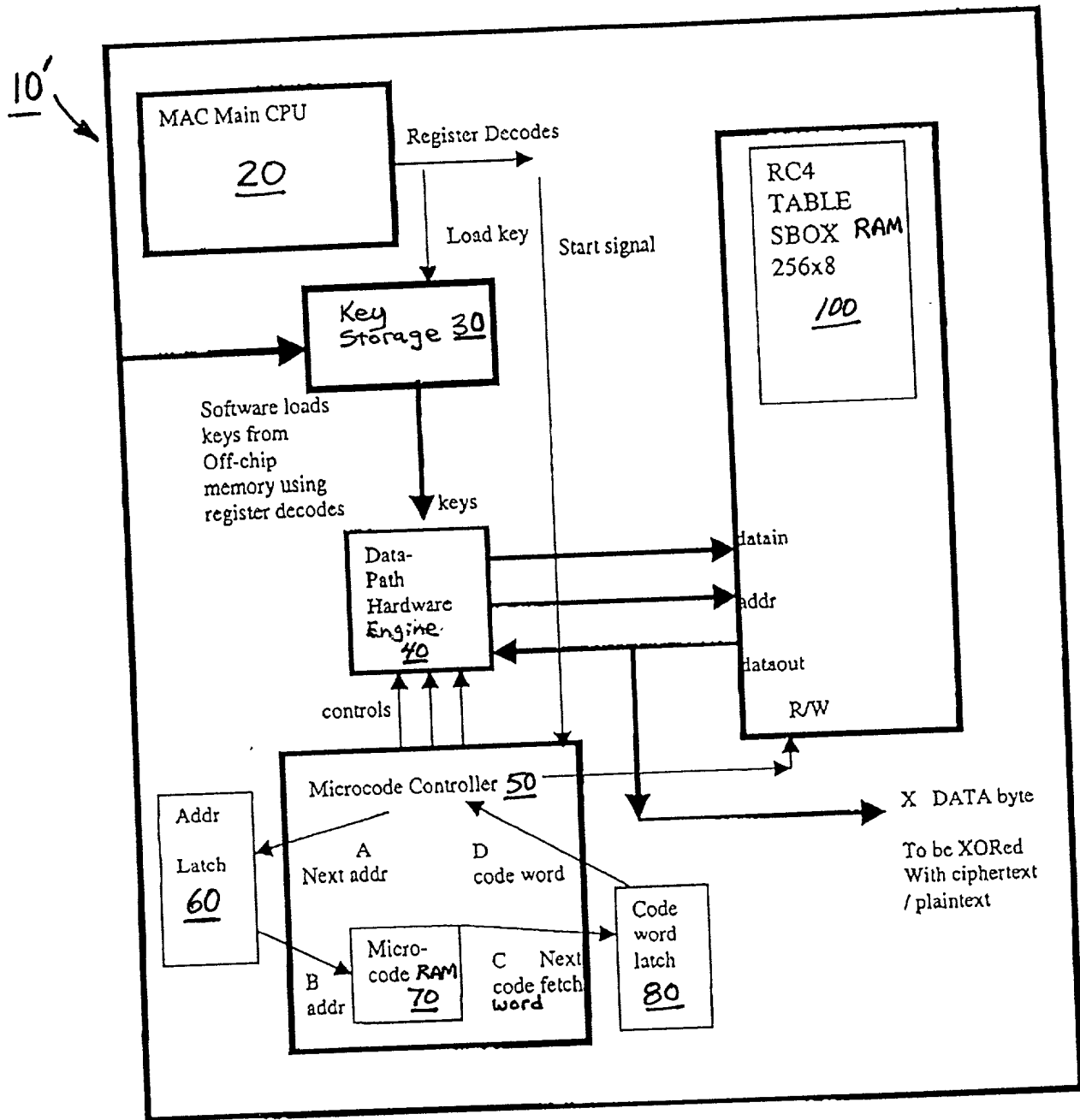


Fig. 3

any time any one of the four lines is high, the output of the decoder is high.

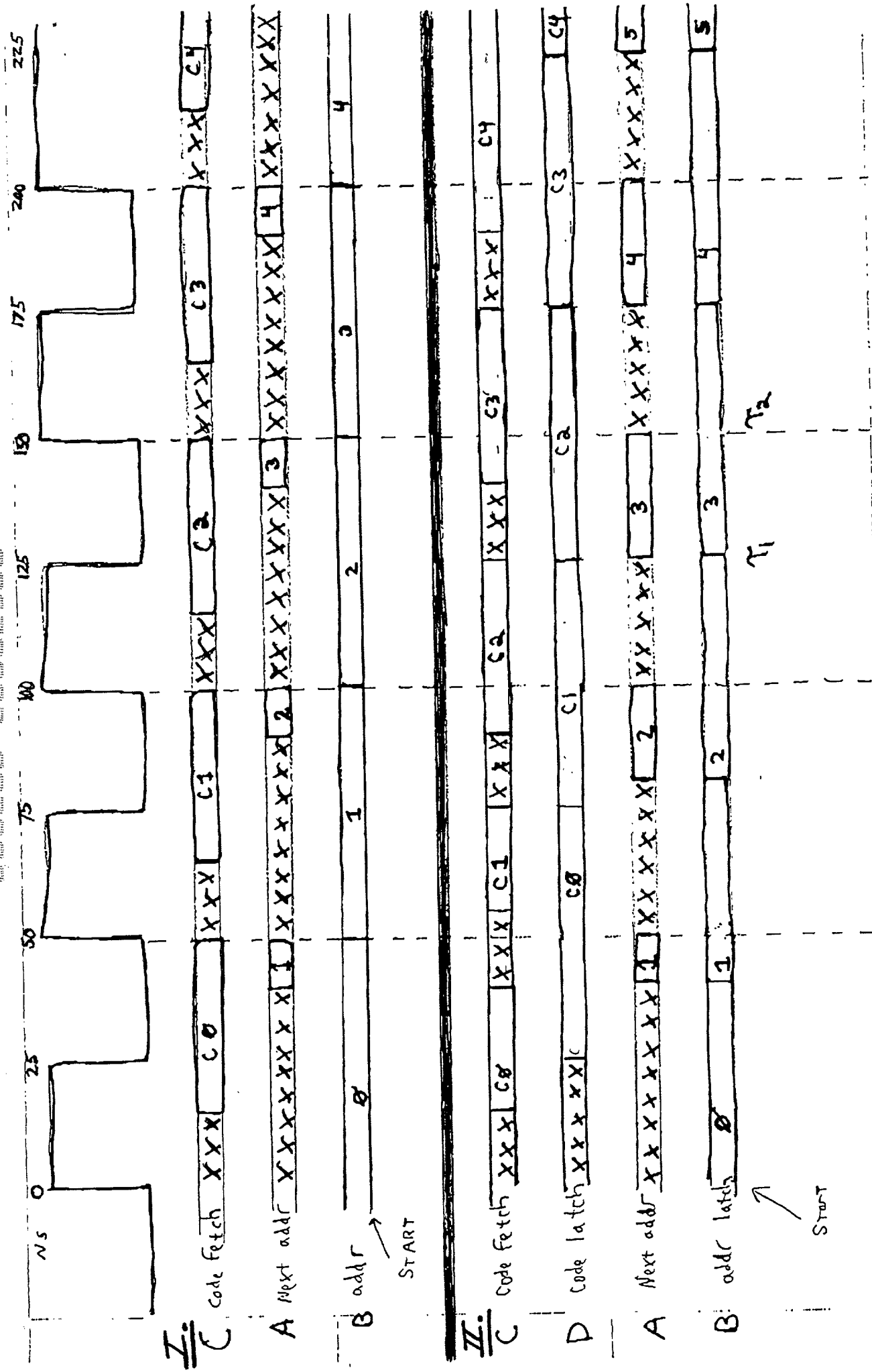


Fig. 4

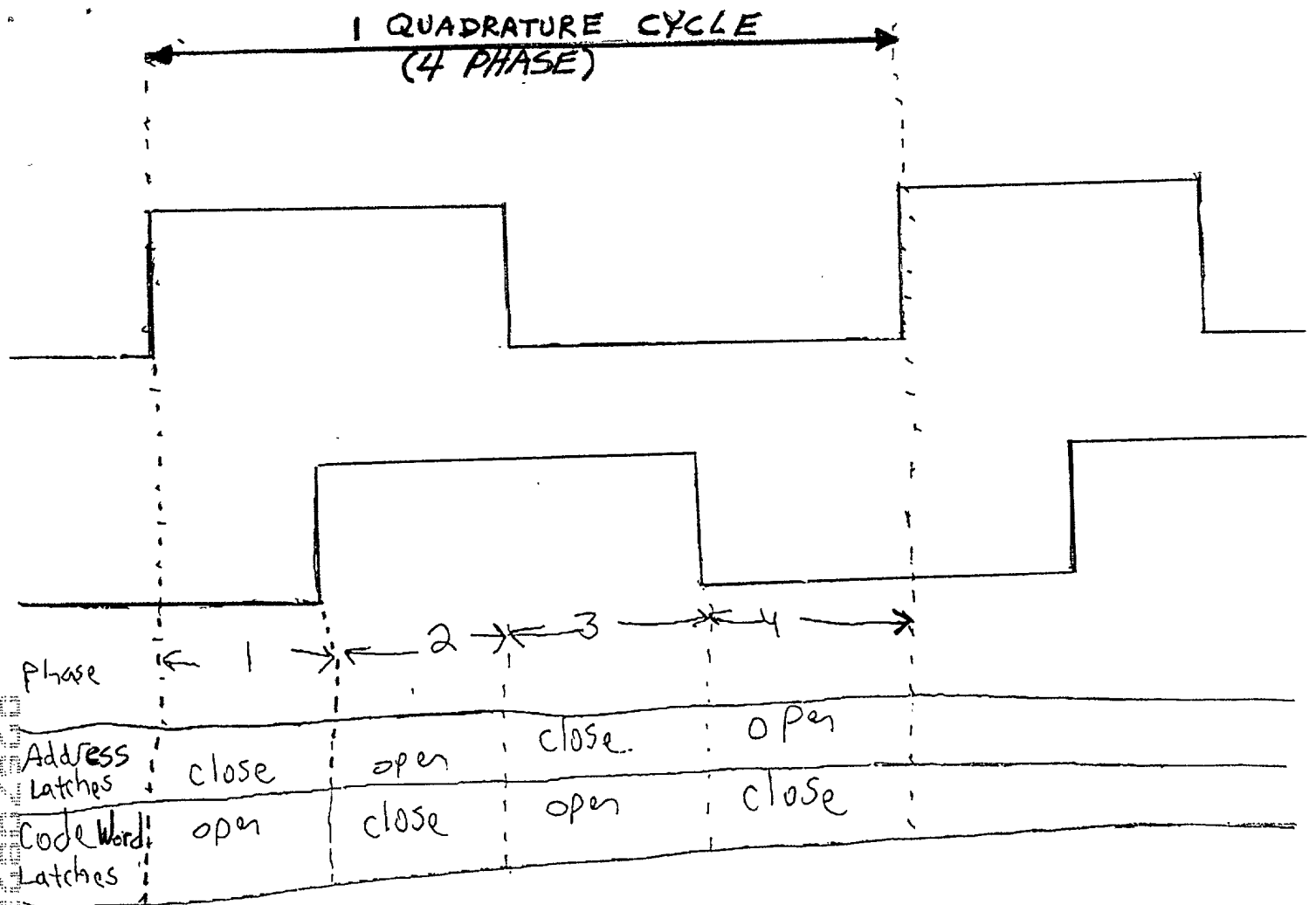


FIG. 5

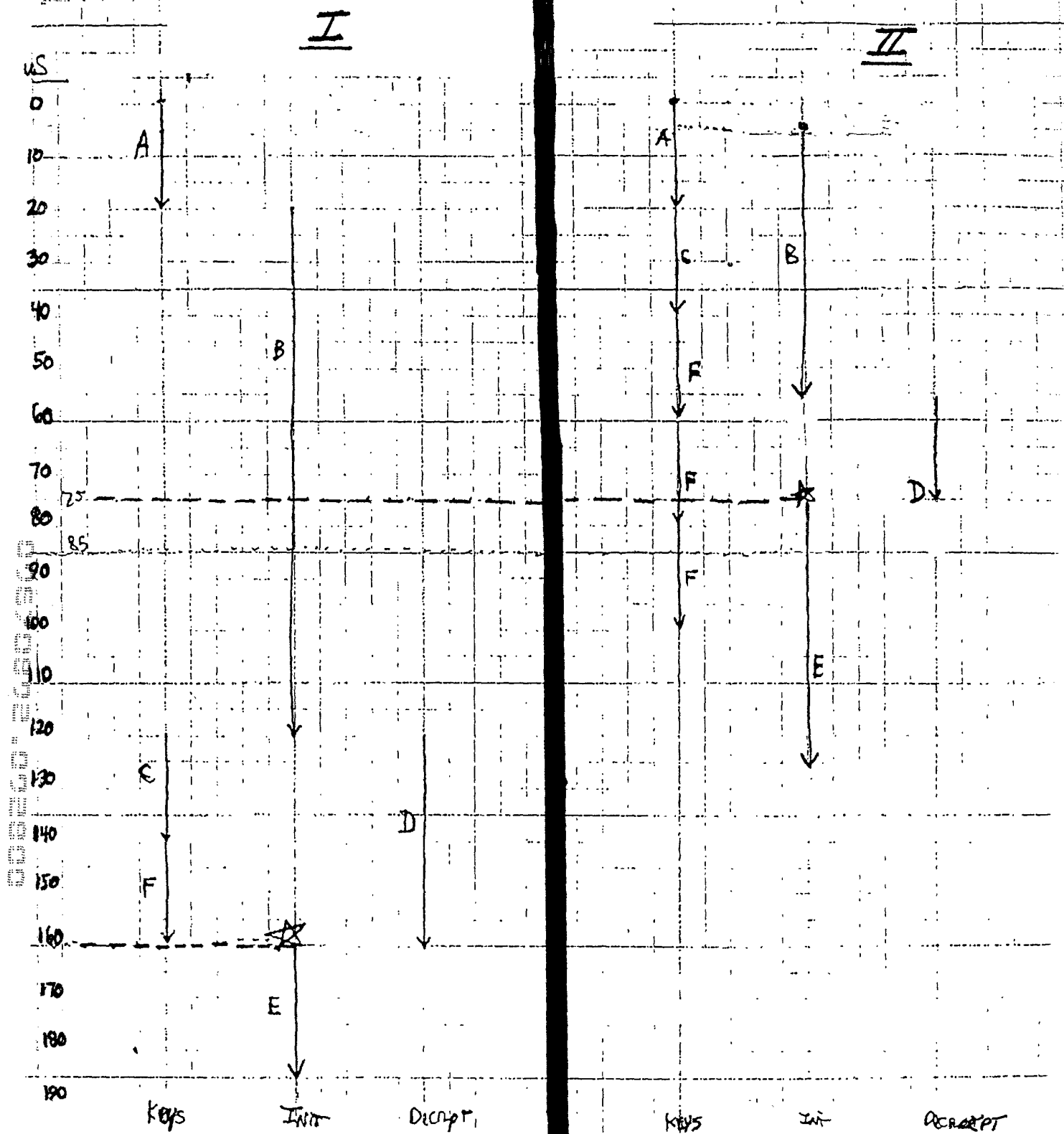


Fig. 6

Docket No. 72255/06073

DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below), or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed, and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**HARDWARE-BASED ENCRYPTION/DECRYPTION EMPLOYING CYCLE
STEALING**

the specification of which is attached hereto, unless the following box is checked:

___ was filed on _____, 20___, as United States Application

Number or PCT International Application Number _____

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §§119(a) - (d) or §365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or §365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

NONE

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NONE

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NONE

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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